

REMARKS

Claims 25-28, 30-40, and 80 have been amended. Claims 1-24 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 25-28, 30-53, and 80-119 are thus pending in this application, with claims 80, 84, and 99 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Patel for indicating that claims 80-83 are allowable.

In the non-final Office Action dated October 21, 2008 (“Office Action”), claims 25-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,629,793 (“Miller”); claims 25-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 7,159,008 (“Wies”); and claims 25-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0227676 (“De Vries”). As suggested by Examiner Patel, claims 25-53 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 80, and clarifying amendments have been made to claim 80. Furthermore, new independent claims 84 and 99 have been added to recite features similar to those allowed in independent claim 80, but have been directed to different statutory classes of invention. Therefore, withdrawal of the section 102 rejections is requested.

It is believed that all pending issues in the outstanding Office Action have been addressed by this paper and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Office Action, however, contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Whether or not any such statement is identified herein does not constitute an automatic subscription to any statement or characterization in the Office Action. In addition, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending or other claims that have not been expressed above.

If there are any questions regarding this paper or the application generally, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this may expedite prosecution of the application.

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It is hereby petitioned that the period for response to the Office Action be extended for one (1) month. The Petition for Extension of Time fee of \$130.00 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please grant any additional extensions of time required to enter this paper and apply any other required charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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